

MINUTES
U.S. – JAPAN 21st PHYTOSANITARY BILATERAL MEETING
KONA, HAWAII
JUNE 28-30, 2005

The United States and Japan discussed the following issues in a three day meeting which included visits to Hawaiian export facilities for papayas and anthuriums

U.S. Chipping Potatoes – Market Access

Japan indicated it is nearing the end of its technical evaluation. The evaluation will also include a visit to the United States this summer to review U.S. phytosanitary measures in potato production areas. Japan also provided background on the rulemaking changes anticipated and the need for a public comment period. The U.S. is waiting a formal response from Japan regarding the technical evaluation.

U.S. Apples -- Work plan

The U.S. and Japan reviewed several revisions to the apple work plan and its appendices. This work plan will eventually allow for apples to be exported to Japan from California, Oregon, and Washington.

U.S. Cherries Systems Approach

The U.S. reported on the outcome of a recent visit by Japan's inspector to the States of Washington and Oregon to see orchards participating in two cherry systems approach studies. The U.S. has agreed to a seasonal end report on the studies for the Washington and Oregon this year. The U.S. will conduct similar studies in California in 2006. The systems approach program for US cherries is being developed as an alternative to mandatory fumigation.

U.S. (Hawaii) Anthuriums

Japan visited an anthurium nursery which would export if approved. Japan reviewed a recent anthurium site visit to Hawaii by its nematologist and asked a number of clarifying questions. The U.S. was able to respond to most of the questions and will provide the remaining answers as soon as possible.

U.S. (Hawaii) Papayas – Reduction of Inspectors

Japan visited a papaya facility. The U.S. requested an update from Japan on the U.S. request to reduce the number of inspectors providing oversight on the papayas exported to Japan. Japan said the request is still under consideration. The U.S. is currently revising a work plan for Japan's review which should be forwarded shortly.

U.S. (Hawaii) Gift Pack for Cut Flower Program

The U.S. asked Japan to consider use of a master certification program for exporting cut flowers to Japan. Papayas are already shipped under a similar program. Japan was responsive to the proposal and made several suggestions including a label system already

used for other countries for hand-carried baggage. Japan asked for notice before the U.S. implements the master certificate/gift pack program for hand-carried cut flowers.

Japan Unshu Oranges

Japan requested an update of its request to reduce quarantine measures for unshu oranges imported into the United States. The U.S. reviewed literature provided by Japan on Unshu orange and citrus canker. The U.S. will provide a formal letter to Japan summarizing the results of this review, and will continue to work closely with Japan on this issue.

Japan Apples

Japan presented its initial request to the U.S. for reduction of its orchard inspection requirements. The U.S. stated that it will evaluate Japan's request upon submission of a formal proposal.

Japan Apples, Pears, and Oranges – Reduction of Inspectors

Japan noted that like U.S. papayas, it would also like to request a reduction in U.S. inspector oversight for the small volume of Japanese apples, pears and oranges exported to the United States. Japan will provide an official request with suggested work schedules.

Regulatory Reform

The U.S. thanked Japan for agreeing to participate in the visiting scientist program at the Center for Plant Health and Technology (CPHST) in Raleigh, North Carolina as part of the regulatory reform initiative and suggested a timeframe for the Japan scientists' visit. The U.S. also requested that Japan give priority attention to several specific forecast pests for pest risk assessment and possible removal from its quarantine list.

Japan Persimmons

Japan asked for an update on its request to ship persimmons to the United States. The United States reported that a pest list is being prepared, and suggested that Japanese plant quarantine specialists might work on the persimmon risk assessment during their visit to CPHST in Raleigh, North Carolina.

U.S. Cherries – Market Access for Early Garnet and Royal Garnier Varieties

The United States thanked Japan for the export approval and stated that exports are expected to begin next year.

U.S. Prune Plums

The United States asked about the status for entry of prune plums. Japan explained that the comment period would expire soon and will update the U.S. as the process progresses.

U.S. Big Bale Hay

The United States thanked Japan for the export approval for big bale hay.

